

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A patch containing fentanyl for mucous membrane of the oral cavity, which comprises a drug layer, a support layer hardly soluble or insoluble in water comprising ethyl cellulose and hydroxypropyl cellulose, on the drug layer, and a backing on the support layer, wherein the drug layer ~~contains~~comprises fentanyl or its salt as an active ingredient, methyl vinyl ether-maleic anhydride copolymer as an adhesive agent, and at least one substance selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and hydroxyethyl cellulose as a thickener.
2. (Original) The patch containing fentanyl for mucous membrane of the oral cavity according to claim 1, wherein the fentanyl salt is fentanyl citrate.
3. (Previously presented) The patch containing fentanyl for mucous membrane of the oral cavity according to claim 1, wherein the drug release rate from the drug layer is adjusted to become 50 % within one hour.
4. (Previously presented) The patch containing fentanyl for mucous membrane of the oral cavity according to claim 1, wherein the ratio of the adhesive and the thickener is a range selected from 5:95 to 97:3.
5. (Previously presented) The patch containing fentanyl for mucous membrane of the oral cavity according to claim 2, wherein the drug release rate from the drug layer is adjusted to become 50 % within one hour.

6. (Currently amended) The patch containing fentanyl for mucous membrane of the oral cavity according to claim 1, wherein the drug layer consists of fentanyl or its salt as an active ingredient, methyl vinyl ether-maleic anhydride copolymer as an adhesive agent, ~~and~~ at least one substance selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and hydroxyethyl cellulose as a thickener, and further ~~optionally~~ at least one member selected from the group consisting of a softening agent, an absorption promoting agent and a sweetening ~~sweeting~~ agent.